



June 23, 2020

Senator Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Marsha Blackburn
Member, Senate Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Tom Cotton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham, Senator Blackburn, and Senator Cotton,

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the world’s largest organization of law enforcement executives, I write in strong support of “The Lawful Access to Encrypted Data Act.” This legislation addresses a significant and growing challenge facing policing today – maintaining law access to critical digital evidence.

By adapting legal processes to the technology of today, the IACP believes that the legislation strikes the proper balance between the privacy of customer data with the ability for law enforcement to carry out criminal investigations. Failure to create a mechanism for lawful access to encrypted data, would effectively create “law-free zones” for criminals and terrorists and others who to harm our citizens and threaten our communities.

The provisions of the legislation ensure that companies that maintain and store encrypted data will be required to assist in recovering encrypted information stored on a device, operating system, remote computing service, wire, or electronic communication service. In addition, this legislation provides the Attorney General with the authority to issue directives on these efforts to service providers and device manufacturers to facilitate compliance with valid court orders and to develop timelines for developing and deploying the required technical capabilities.

We applaud you for introducing this important legislation. We look forward to working with you and your staff to move this legislation forward and to ensure that law enforcement agencies can continue to effectively prevent, investigate, and prosecute those who would harm our communities.

Thank you for continuing efforts on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Chief Steven R. Casstevens
President, IACP

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Chief Steven R. Casstevens
Buffalo Grove, IL, Police Department

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Chief Paul M. Cell
Montclair State University, NJ,
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